

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Appointment Recommendation Board
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

PRESENT: (Board Members)

Phillip D. Townsend, Chairman
W. Hays Gilstrap
Susan E. Chilton
Leonard G. Stinson

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010

(Directors Staff)

Jim Odenkirk, Assistant Attorney General
Linda Pollack, Assistant Attorney General

Chairman Phillip D. Townsend called the meeting to order at **08:10 a.m.** This meeting followed an agenda dated November 09, 2010.

1. Welcome and Introductions of The Arizona Game and Fish commission Appointment Recommendation Board.

Chairman, Phillip D. Townsend opened the meeting by addressing to the public that the Board would be operating off an agenda dated November 09, 2010. The purpose of today's proceedings is for the Board to come to an agreement on a list of applicants that will be submitted to the Governor's office for her consideration for the next Arizona Game and Fish Department Commission appointee. As part of today's proceedings the Board will be conducting public interviews of prospective candidates. Copies of the agenda are located on the table by the back door. If a member of the public wishes to speak to the Board regarding today's proceeding, they were advised to complete a blue slip, get it to a Board member and they would insure that the individual is recognized at the appropriate time.

Board member Leonard G. Stinson read a statement that was provided to the Board from the Arizona Game and Fish Staff, "**Managing Today for Wildlife Tomorrow**". Board member Stinson thought this would be a good focus for the Board and wanted the public to be aware that this was the Boards concerns for selecting candidates for the Commission.

"The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor".

The meeting reconvened at 09:04 a.m.

2. Discussion and Deliberation of Board Process and Procedures, Including the Process for Evaluating Applicants.

Board member Sue Chilton started the meeting with how she feels the Board should represent themselves. Purpose of the Commission is to set policy and to represent the persons of Arizona. The Director then implements that policy. Sue Chilton emphasized that the Board is a spokesman for the people of Arizona; they are not spokesman for individual interest groups.

The Applicants were asked to prepare a three to five minute introductory statement in which they would be asked to start with, that related to the following: *What do they bring that will be an advantage to the State of Arizona, its wildlife and habitat? What makes them qualified to perform the job of Commissioner and why are they willing to do the job?*

Once the applicant concluded with their introductory statement to the Board, the applicants were asked individual questions by each Board member. The applicants responded to each question that was asked of them by the Board members.

3. Interviews of Selected Applicants for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

Mr. Brian D. Pinney – Interview began at 09:09 a.m. (telephonic interview)

Mr. Pinney has been a volunteer through wildlife advocacy for the last 25 years. He served as Chairman for Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Anglers United where he was President. He is active with WCC as the past President, currently a Chairman, active with the Heritage Alliance which is designed to protect the heritage fund. Mr. Pinney has served six years on the Heritage Advisory Council. While he served on the Heritage Advisory Council it gave him an idea of how the operation of the Game and Fish Department works. He benefited from it greatly and hopes to return that to the department with his opinions. Mr. Pinney has been a business owner for 27 years; three years ago he sold his business and retired as a result of that. Mr. Pinney has done lots of hunting and fishing over the last three years, which he enjoys very much. He is young enough and still has the energy to dedicate five years to the Commission. Through the years of volunteering with the various organizations and being exposed to all the other wildlife groups, it gives him a good perspective of where wildlife and conservation meet. He feels some of the hunting groups are organized under the WCC and the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife and he is really glad to see that, but also has the perspective of the Heritage Alliance, which is not overly crowded with hunting groups but they do have the same willingness and desire that other sportsman's groups have. As a business owner he feels he can look at both side and see that there is a revenue stream and there are cost involved and how to balance that. He is not an extremist, he is not a democrat, he's not republican, he's an Independent, which he feels gives him the latitude to look at issues, not politically based, but merit and make post decisions. He's not a biologist, does not have a college degree but he has learned as he has gone along, adapted to some degree and considers himself successful. He's always had a passion for wildlife, feels he would be a good Commissioner from the stand point that he is fair and balanced.

The following are questions that were asked of Mr. Pinney by each Board Member:

Stinson –

Give me your perspective on the endangered species act and the department's involvement in supporting that.

Can you give me your personal views on the importance or non-importance, depending on how you see it, on wolf reintroduction?

Gilstrap –

What in the arena of the Federal Agencies have you had the opportunity to interact with any of those people, if so could you relate?

Chilton –

Could you elaborate on your view of the oversight role of the Commission with relations to the Department and its policy setting requirements for the Commission?

Townsend –

Most of the laws in Arizona for poaching are misdemeanors are you satisfied with that, if not what would you anticipate would be your opinion on working with the legislature to create stiffer penalties?

Stinson -

What do you see as our major habitat issues in the State of Arizona?

View on where we are with recruitment issues.

Chilton –

Bulk of the land where the wildlife maintains its habitat is either managed by Federal, State, Indian, or private owners and there are issues of access. What would you do as a commissioner to enhance the willingness of private land owners and land managers to allow access through and to their lands for hunting and other management purposes?

Could you give your observations regarding the impact on available land for recreation by designations of wilderness and whether you would actively seek to keep lands open and not restricted in access?

Townsend –

Prop 109, what is your opinion on it and where would you like to see that issue go?

Mr. Charles R. Joy, Jr. – Interview began at 10:06 a.m.

Mr. Joy, Jr. is a third generation native of Arizona, his grandfather was born in Tuba City in 1883. Began his education where he was born in the City of Prescott at age five. His father's work took them all over the State of Arizona, moving frequently. Congress, San Carlos, Bullhead City, Sanders, Benson, Winslow, Quartzsite, Chino Valley, Camp Verde, Snowflake, Yuma, Payson, Safford, and Wickenburg just to name a few places where he has lived. He completed his education in 1971 when he graduated from the Arizona State University. He is familiar with the Great State, its people, and its wildlife. His family has hunted and fished in Arizona since before it became a state. He is a small business owner, for a period of thirteen years he owned a majority interest in and acted as the managing principle for a small construction company that

relocated to Chino Valley. He successfully grew that business from the first year he was there from five hundred thousand dollars worth of business to over twenty six million in the eighth year. They continued to break it every year while he was there. In 2001 he sold his interest in the company to his partners and started his consulting business that he now owns and operates. While he was running the construction company, he became active in organizations such as Associated General Contractors of America, He served on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Chapter in the mid 1990's and as President, C.E.O., and Chairman of the board in the year 2000. He was on the National Board of Directors for a four year period and each of the four years he spent time in Washington DC giving him an insight to Government at the national level. He is a life member of the Safari Club based in Tucson. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, Dallas Safari Club, and many other wildlife organizations here in Arizona and associations that he belongs to and he supports. He and his wife have been able to provide hunting and outdoor opportunities for many of the youth and older enthusiast who are ill or handicapped.

The following are questions that were asked of Mr. Joy, Jr. by each Board Member:

Stinson –

Give me your understanding of the endangered species act and the Departments involvement in the endangered species act.

Give me your perspective on wolf reintroduction.

What would you do to see it succeed?

Chilton –

How do you view the proposed increase in designations of wilderness in the State of Arizona?

How do you view that as impacting the neighboring non-designated lands?

What is your view on the effort to increase the number of wilderness restricted access areas?

Gilstrap –

Potential conflict of wildlife and habitat management between the Federal and State entities whether they be BLM, Forest, Fishing and Wildlife, etc. Could you give me your perspective on how those multi entities would work either together or not in order to enhance their responsibility?

Give us your perspective on how you would deal with incorporating more young people into the outdoor experience collectable and/or specifically?

Townsend –

What is your opinion on the law and penalties for poaching and illegal taking of game and do you think they need to be increased?

Stinson-

What do you see as our major habitat issues in the State of Arizona?

Do you have any perspective on management of migratory animals and migratory routes?

Do you have any particular familiarity or thoughts about the department's new watchable wildlife programs?

Chilton-

What are your views on helping to build bridges between the land owners, managers, and wildlife groups?

Gilstrap-

As a Commission you will be receiving lots of input and information from others. Could you give me feedback on your background or perception on how you would process deluge of information?

Townsend-

Prop 109, what is your opinion on why it failed, what is your opinion if you were seated on the Commission or just as a resident of Arizona?

Mr. Robert E. Mansell - Interview began at 11:07 a.m.

Mr. Mansell started off by reading a quote from Winston Churchill "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Mr. Mansell stated that he is at a point in his life where giving is more important than getting and wants to give back to what he has got so much from. Both he and his wife have deep roots in Arizona. His grandfather came to Arizona in the late 1800's; his mother was born in Bisbee, Arizona prior to statehood. His wife's ancestors were one of the first three families that settled in Oak Creek Canyon. Both have been longtime resident of Arizona. He grew up on a small farm in Cornville, Arizona. As a young child he learned two important life attributes. One was a work ethic and the other was an appreciation of the outdoors. As a child growing up on a farm where there are lots of chores to do which he started at an early age. When chores were done he had an outdoors experience that today's youth could only dream of. He has been a lifelong hunter, fisher, and boater. He has had hunting and fishing licenses in Arizona every year of his life. For the past many years he has had licenses from other states, mostly western states. He grew up in the outdoors and continues to enjoy the outdoors. He is a community leader, served on boards, and has been an elected official. He has always tried to give back to his community. In Cornville he attended a two room school house, grades one thru six. He went to high school in Jerome, Arizona and was the first member in his family to go to college. He graduated from NAU after three years of study and worked fulltime while in college. His first professional job was in Williams, Arizona where he was a Junior High School Science teacher for four years. He acquired a master's degree from NAU. In 1973 he received a fellowship at NAU where he continued his studies, taught, and achieved requirements to become a superintendent and principal. His first administrative position was in Morenci, Arizona where he served as an Assistant Principal at a middle school for three years. In 1977 he was appointed principal of Winslow Junior High School and remained with the school district for 22 years. From 1988 to 1998 he held two fulltime jobs; he was a principal and manager of the Winslow Schools Federal Credit Union. In 1998 he left education and continued with the Credit Union. In 2003 he became superintendent for Winslow schools and stayed in that position until he retired in 2009. He believes his background is important as serving as Commissioner. He grew up around a fish hatchery and believes this has helped him to understand the role and scope of the AZ Game and Fish Commission. He recently retired and has lots of energy to devote to the Commission. He believes life is made up of what we give and feels that sitting on the Commission will be a combination of enjoying everything related to this field and giving back to this field. He really feels he has prepared for this position all his life.

The following are questions that were asked of Mr. Mansell by each Board Member:

Stinson-

What is your understanding of the endangered species act and what do you see the department's involvement in that is?

What is your opinion on the department supporting it?

Your perspective of the wolf introduction and reintroduction is what?

Given a personal choice would we have wolves or not?

Chilton –

What is your view of the role of the Commissioner on evaluating the effect of proposed wilderness areas?

Gilstrap –

What is your perspective on how you would deal with all the different entities to both fulfill the mission of the Game and Fish Department, while still responding to the responsibilities of the land managers?

Give your perspective on education for the outdoors and effectively address our hunting and fishing heritage as well as just an appreciation for the outdoors?

Townsend-

What is your perspective on current penalties for illegal takings?

Stinson-

From your perspective what do you see as the most serious habitat issues facing Arizona currently?

Do you have any perspective on migratory issues?

Chilton-

How do you view the common efforts of both the rural residence and the wildlife groups to enhance habitat and preserve species for the future.

Gilstrap-

As a commissioner one of the challenges is to receive a great deal of information from a very broad spectrum of people. What is your perception on how you would receive and evaluate and make decision on the best interest of wildlife and habitat?

Townsend-

What is your view of Prop 109, do you think it should be rethought and brought back or are you satisfied with the outcome?

Stinson-

Are you familiar with the watchable wildlife program that the AGFD has initiated this past year?

The meeting recessed at 11:36 a.m.

Mr. William E. Poole, Jr. – Interview began at 01:35 p.m.

Mr. Poole has been involved in outdoors sports for all his life. In the last 25 years he has been extremely active primarily in shooting sports and does a little bit of hunting also. His personality is such, that whatever organization he gets involved in he tries to take on leadership roles. He is currently serving as President of Phoenix Ride and Gun Club, which has a shooting range in South Phoenix. In the past he has been Vice President and Division Director for the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association. Mr. Poole, has been involved and a member in a number of other shooting sports, gun clubs, and a handful of wildlife centered outdoor organizations. While he doesn't care much for politics the Arizona Game and Fish is the one government agency that he does deal with the most and has the most commitment and interest in. He feels he is the core customer of the agency, active in the shooting sports, goes hunting every year and has lived in Arizona for the past 15 years and has had hunting and fishing license every year. For every day he spends hunting, which is eight to ten days a year, he probably spends ten to fifteen days at the shooting range, which is his primary interest. He likes the concept of citizen oversight of government agencies, so having a commission made up of citizens that volunteer their time to oversee agencies he feels it's a good thing and a good balance of power in a way of operating government agencies. This would be something that he is willing to volunteer his time to do and feels he would bring to the position a slightly different point of view as he is not primarily a hunter, so he sees the point of views of the shooting sports enthusiast. Mr. Poole feels he has the point of view of someone who lives in the big metro phoenix area; if he wants to go quail hunting he has to drive for an hour and a half. Mr. Poole feels this is one of the concerns for 70 to 80 percent of the population of Arizona. Mr. Poole stated he represents in that since average Arizonians and general customer base of the agency. For his daily job he is an electrical engineer in the semiconductor industry he has comfort and familiarity in advancing technologies.

The following are questions that were asked of Mr. Poole, Jr. by each Board Member:

Stinson-

What is your prospective on the endangered species act and the interplay with Arizona Game and Fish and how those things work together?

What is your prospective on wolf reintroduction?

Chilton-

How do you see the commission building relationship, especially with private land owners who can control access to their land, to increase access and management opportunities for the department?

Gilstap-

You will receive a great deal of information that is coming from the public and some from the department. The volume of information you will receive is very large, some more relevant than other. Can you give me a take on how you would assemble/receive that information and use that to make decisions for the policy of the department, best interest for wildlife habitat?

Townsend-

What is your prospective on illegal taking of wildlife?

Stinson-

What do you see as the critical habitat issues in the State of Arizona at the present time?

Stinson-

Are you familiar with the departments recent opening of a watchable wildlife division?

What is your familiarity of the scope of what Arizona Game and Fish is responsible for, regarding game and non-game?

Chilton-

What is your view of proposal for more wilderness areas in Arizona?

Gilstrap-

Can you give me your prospective on recruitment retention on young people?

Townsend-

What is your prospective on Prop 109 and what do you think of the idea of trying to resurrect it at some point or should it be left alone?

Mrs. Susan Bitter Smith – Interview began at 02:36 p.m.

Mrs. Bitter Smith addressed that this was not on her list of things to do in life, but when the opportunity arose she felt it might be a nice fit for the skill set that she has. She is an Arizona native born and raised in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. She has had the privilege of going to school here has a number of degrees from Arizona State University and went on to have some great opportunities in public service, starting with the Scottsdale City Council. She went on to service in the Maricopa County Charter Board. She was a member on the Volts Elementary School board. She is now finishing up her second term and final term on the Central Arizona Project, Board of Directors, and was elected county-wide for Maricopa County. She has also served as President on the Central Arizona Project Board. Her real job is owner and operator of a business with her husband, Technical Solutions. They are a small business, they employ about a dozen people they are a public affairs firm and their client base is basically telecommunications companies, including the Arizona New Mexico cable Telecommunications Association. They handle other issues ranging from working on health care issues to interaction on government regulations issues or anything that needs help and assistance through the regulatory process that they have the ability to do. The business is now in its twenty-fifth year of operation and they are still standing.

Mrs. Bitter Smith stated what she's been doing with the Central Arizona Project Board and what the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has been and will be doing. She feels she has a unique and important opportunity with the Commission. Mrs. Bitter Smith addressed that the Central Arizona Project and the Game and Fish are only at the beginning of finding other kinds of challenges that will be imposed upon them from other agencies, quite frankly from other budget challenges both from State and Federal levels. Clearly the state budget crisis is impacting what can and will be done here. As we look at an agency that has user fees that help pay for its existence it is an attractive opportunity for the state to look to limit what can be done with state resource income streams to do other things. It would be important to have someone who understands the ability and has the background in being able to communicate the importance of

what Game and Fish does and the importance of having access and flexibility for the use of our natural resource and should not be considered to be an opportunity for additional funds. There is also a growing challenge for the government from the federal government as it begins to both potentially by congressional action but probably more likely by agency action begin to impose limitations and requirements upon the states and the use of public lands that states will have to address. Multi species conservation plan is certainly an example where there is a natural tension between use of public land and also important conservation of habitat that we have all kinds of federal rules that began to influence how we operate here at the state level. Again having the ability to understand how federal public policy and state public policy interact with each other is probably a skill set that will be useful to the Commission. Mrs. Bitter Smith feels this is what makes her different; she is a user of state facilities. Her family uses the Ben Avery facility. She feels Arizona is about the ability to enjoy its natural resources and do so in a responsible fashion. It's been her history as a public policy maker and her history as simply a citizen and user of facilities that are already out and about in the State of Arizona. She has had the opportunity to look at the department's strategic plan and thinks it sets forth a great work plan for both the department and Commission. She feels there is the opportunity for potentially updating that plan because the outside influences are growing, changing, and she suspects that was not the case in 2006 when the plan was put in place. She has had lots of experience in doing that in both elected jobs as well as what she does for a living. She has a great interest in serving and she would hope from her unique abilities both as a policy maker and having served in other agencies would help in strategic partnering. She feels there are skill sets that she has that other candidates may not.

The following are questions that were asked of Mrs. Bitter Smith by each Board Member:

Stinson-

Give me your understanding of the endangered species act and the Arizona Game and Fish Departments involvement in that?

In general your personal opinion on the endanger species act?

Could you describe for me your understanding of where the funding for AZGF comes from?

Are you aware of how many tax dollars we collect from the State of Arizona to support the agency?

Chilton-

How would you visualize on improving those communications between the Commission and the entities that are in charge of the various lands?

Gilstrap-

On the interaction of difference agencies and the access to our public lands, how would you deal with receipt of information, evaluating it and making the policy decisions that are in the best interest of habitat and public access to our land?

Townsend-

What is your opinion on the current criminal penalties of illegal taking of wildlife?

Stinson-

What do you perceive to be the most critical habitat issue in Arizona at the current time?

Beyond funding what would you say the most critical issue is?

Are you familiar with the watchable wildlife division that the department set up last year?

Do you have any thoughts on that concept of watchable wildlife as an official position of the department?

Chilton-

What is your position on the proposed increase in the number of wilderness designations?

With your extensive experience with a lot of the same issues that the commission faces, you may have a fair store of information that you've put together on the requirements of habitat and maintenance requirements for a lot of species?

Gilstrap-

Give your perception or your observation on how we can enhance our knowledge of the appreciation of the outdoors wildlife and its habitat.

Townsend-

What is your take on why prop 109 failed and do you feel we need to let it go or do would you support resurrecting it and in what fashion?

Stinson-

What is your perspective on wolf reintroduction?

Do you have a hunting and/or fishing license?

At this time Chairman Phillip D. Townsend asked the public if there was anyone who would like to comment on the interviews that took place today.

Stephanie Nichols Young, with the Animal Defense League of Arizona was present and stated that the webpage for this committee indicated or at least implied it had a link to the webcast, there was no link to the webcast. Stephanie suggested that the webcast would be a good tool where members of the public from all over the state would have the opportunity to observe the proceedings. She would urge whoever makes that decision to reconsider and have the meetings webcasted; this is a great way to increase public participation. She also hopes that after this year that the board will take comments from the public on ways that the Board could gather input on applicants that would make the process more transparent. This meeting happened so fast people did not have the opportunity to participate. She feels there are things that could be done to engage the public in addition to the webcast. Prior to this committee there was a huge engagement in the process. The clubs did informal interviews so there were literally dozens, if not hundreds of people who directly participated in the interview process and we are not seeing that right now. I hope next year you can all reach out and take suggestion from everyone in the wildlife community and take more input to engage more people in this process. Thank you!

4. Recommendation of Applicants for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to be forwarded to the Governor for Consideration.

The Board deliberated on how they would proceed to select the applicants to submit to the Governor for her review and consideration. The board decided to vote on a point system; twenty points, divided up among at least three people.

Board Member Sue Chilton suggested they write down the names of the applicants listing them 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 with five being the highest. Then they would dividing twenty points among a minimum of at least three candidates. The Board members agreed to write down the candidates one through five, use a maximum of twenty points total, a maximum of eight points per any one candidate and the board must vote for no less than three candidates.

Assistant Attorney General, Jim Odenkirk advised the Board it would take a vote from the majority of the quorum, at least three votes, to forward any one candidates name. Jim also reminded the Board that this is not a binding process and the Board is not bound by any results that occur here today.

The Board members went through their votes as to how and why they came up with their votes. The Board members voted as follows:

L. Gary Stinson –

Brian D. Pinney - 8 points
Susan Bitter Smith - 7 points
William E. Poole, Jr. - 5 points

Susan E. Chilton –

Charles R. Joy, Jr. – 8 points
Susan Bitter Smith – 7 points
Robert E. Mansell – 2 points

W. Hays Gilstrap –

Susan Bitter Smith – 8 points
Brian D. Pinney – 5 points
William E. Poole, Jr. - 5 points
Robert E. Mansell – 2 points

Phillip D. Townsend –

Brian D. Pinney – 8 points
Susan Bitter Smith – 5 points
Robert E. Mansell – 5 points
Charles R. Joy, Jr. – 2 points

As a result of the Board members votes, the final calculations were as follows:

Mrs. Susan Bitter Smith with 27 points
Mr. Brian D. Pinney with 21 points
Mr. Robert E. Mansell with 12 points
Mr. Charles R. Joy, Jr. with 10 points
Mr. William E. Poole, Jr. with 10 points

Motion: Gilstrap moved and Stinson second THAT THE BOARD SUBMIT THE NAMES OF BRIAN D. PINNEY, ROBERT E. MANSELL, AND SUSAN BITTER SMITH TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE 2011 COMMISSION.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Future Meeting Schedule and Locations.

Presenter - Jim Odenkirk, Assistant Attorney General

Jim addressed with the Board the approval of the meeting minutes and advised the Board members they would need to be available for a future meeting to approve these minutes; therefore a future meeting will be scheduled to do so.

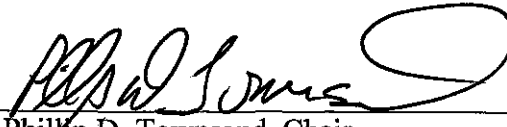
It was discussed among the Board members if they wanted to retain Chairman Phillip D. Townsend to remain as their spokes person for the next year. The Board members UNANIMOUSLY agreed to keep Chair Phillip D. Townsend until they reconvene next year after July 2011.

The board addressed that they would like to have another meeting to discuss the policies and procedures in which the Board conducted their interview process over the past few days. The Board will also set in place the Boards policies and procedures for next year.

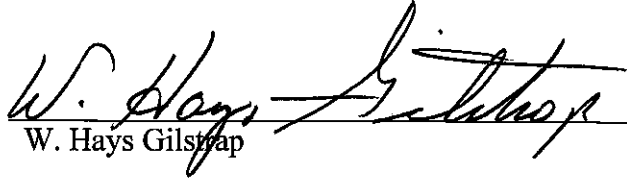
6. Future Agenda Items.

A future meeting will be scheduled for the Board to reconvene and approve the minutes of both the Friday, November 12, 2010 and Monday, November 15, 2010 meetings. At this meeting the Board will also discuss the policies and procedures that were set in place during this year's interview process and what they would like to see take place during next year's interview process for Commission.

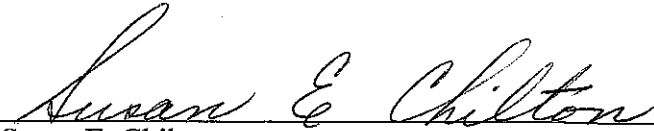
The meeting adjourned at 04:14 p.m.



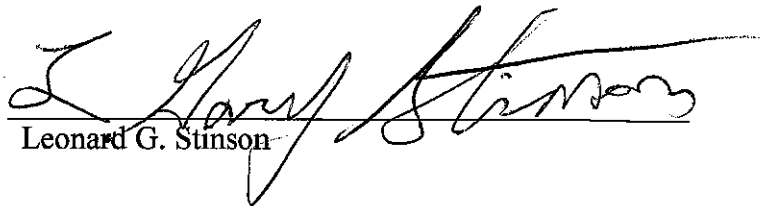
Phillip D. Townsend, Chair



W. Hays Gilstrap



Susan E. Chilton



Leonard G. Stinson